



City of Tempe  
Cultural Services  
3340 South Rural Road  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-350-5287  
480-350-5161 FAX  
[www.tempe.gov/arts](http://www.tempe.gov/arts)

## Emerald Center phase II

### Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



Photo: Craig Smith

#### Artwork

*Arts & Crafts*

#### Development

Emerald Center phase II

#### Address

8475 S. Emerald Drive

#### Artist

David Brant

#### Completion

2006

#### Material

Rusted Steel

**Description:** Two primary influences have fostered the concept for the second of three phases of the Emerald Design Center. The purpose of the three phases is to provide commercial space for those businesses that are engaged in some aspect of home furnishing. This may include such things as furniture, art for the walls, carpet, tile, wall coverings and the like. This form of commerce is the primary influence. The streetscape of Emerald Drive is enhanced with the view of an artist's garden wherein a positive/negative steel plate image of a painter with easel can be seen from the street. This element directly relates to a courtyard gallery of illuminated display cases in rusted steel for the display of framed works of various painters as selected by the project ownership. One of the display cases is punctuated with an abstract steel paintbrush that is engaged with the side of the frame. This abstraction is further enhanced with a splattering of numerous colors of acid-based concrete stains. As the visitor moves into the project one discovers the on-going activities of a furniture makers and a slate tile installer at numerous locations along the pedestrian routes. The furniture makers and tile installer are rusted steel plate figures, eight-feet in height, in both positive and negative images, wielding a large hammer and appearing to attach a cap piece to a bench and sawing a chair back of an over-height chair. The tile installer piece will be enhanced with a complementary over-scaled steel trowel against a slate veneer wall component on one of the buildings.

**Funding:** This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

**Artist biography:** Brant has more than 35 years experience in a variety of projects and media throughout the western United States. David was formally educated in landscape architecture and trained in a variety of artistic arenas. For 20 years prior to the formation of the company, IDEA, he held responsible positions with design firms throughout Phoenix and Southern California, and was a founding partner in a major southwest landscape architecture firm. Brant is responsible for all aspects of IDEA's projects, utilizing his award-winning experience in project theming and story rendition through landscape architecture, urban design, architecture, public art and graphic design.

**Artist statement:** Despite the continuous change in his artistic style, one common thread unites each project he undertakes. No matter how small or large the piece, it must not only "fit" into its environment, but also abide by the rules of simplicity, wherein each element serves a specific purpose. Be it sculpture, painting, reprographic or photographic art, or a piece of furniture, no line therein exists in vain. Moreover, the piece must contribute to the environment in which it lives, both by borrowing elements from its surroundings to create cohesion and by reflecting a component of the "story" of the space to synthesize its purpose with its environs. His palette, therefore, exists of those materials that are appropriate to the surrounding environment, and is, thus, ever changing. "The art is the place and the place is the art," he said.

Tempe's Art in Private Development program is managed by city of Tempe Cultural Services staff with input from the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission, a 15-member, mayor-appointed advisory board.